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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 654
By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Solomon C. Black for his meritorious service during World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Solomon C. Black joined the United States Army on June 19, 1940, at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he bravely and courageously served as an M-1 rifle expert and a heavy truck driver in the 19th Infantry at Scofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii, and in the Central Pacific; and

WHEREAS, stationed at the Scofield Barracks on the morning of December 7, 1941, Solomon Black was in the mess hall of his barracks when Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor began; he and his fellow soldiers of the 19th Infantry seized their M-1 rifles and went to the motor pool to obtain a truck carrying ammunition; the soldiers then proceeded to take position at

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Wheeler Field, where enemy aircraft opened fire on them, the Japanese pilot's flying close enough for the soldiers of the 19th Infantry to see the faces of the men bombing them; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Black survived the two hour attack on Pearl Harbor, which wounded 1,178 people and killed 2,390 people; the surprise attack sank the U.S.S. Arizona with its 1,177 crew members aboard, heavily damaged 21 other United States ships, and damaged or destroyed 323 United States aircraft; and

WHEREAS, for his distinguished service in the United States Army, Solomon C. Black was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Star and the American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, after admirably serving in the United States Army for five years, one month, and twenty-eight days, he was honorably discharged on August 19, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Solomon Black married his wife and sweetheart, Tina, on October 5, 1974, and is the loving and proud father of three children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Black's service in the United States Army can only be categorized as outstanding, and his bravery under fire was in the best tradition of members of the armed forces of our nation; and

WHEREAS, with the recent passing of the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, it is incumbent upon this General Assembly to honor those courageous members of the United States Military who stalwartly served this great country with the utmost courage during one of its most troubled and difficult times; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Solomon C. Black for his great valor during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, praise his meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II, and express our gratitude and admiration for his commendable efforts to safeguard liberty and the American way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We also extend to him our warmest wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.